27th June, 1991.

M. Francois Mitterrand,
President of the French Republic,
Office of the President,
Paris,
France.

Dear Mr. President,

I am very disturbed by the news that Mr. Abdelmoumem Diouri has been deported to Gabon.

As you are aware, Mr. Diouri is rather famous for his opposition to King Hassan II, and his parents were both killed by the Moroccan security forces. Indeed, he was under sentence of death before he was given asylum in France.

I am not familiar with the reasons for the decision to deport Mr. Diouri. But whaever offences he may have committed, there are grounds for very serious concern about the choice of Gabon as the destination to which he was compulsorily embarked. The relations between the Government of Gabon and that of Morocco give no guarantee that Mr. Diouri's rights will be respected. There is some considerable danger that the numbers of Moroccans who are working alongside the Gabonese security forces may be able to secure his further deportation to Morocco itself.

Mr. Diouri asked that, if he were compelled to leave France, he might be sent to Switzerland or Algeria.

I wonder, is it possible, now, to request the authorities in Gabon to allow Mr. Diouri to go on to Algeria or Switzerland, or some other country of his choice? I understand that he is currently held under house arrest, so there should be no difficulty about arranging for his forward transit.

Whatever Mr. Diouri may have done in France, I am perfectly sure that you will not wish for any repetition of the tragic case of Ben Barka. I do hope you will be able to help in this matter.

With great respect and good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Coates